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**FY 2019**  
**SMALL NEPA PROJECT DESCRIPTION**  
**Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests**

Please **do not leave any field BLANK**, unless it does not apply.  
Submit form (Word doc) electronically to [jjchynoweth@fs.fed.us](mailto:jjchynoweth@fs.fed.us) by **November 7, 2018**.

*(NOTE: Italicized / red comments are for reference only. You may delete them when completing form.)*

<b>Project Name</b>	Boulder Creek Bridge
<b>District Name (or "Forestwide")</b>	Salmon River
<b>County where project located?</b>	Idaho
<b>FS Personnel Name, Phone Number and Email</b> <i>If a partnership, please add name, phone and email; however, an FS employee MUST BE the project proponent and point of contact.</i>	Sean Santolin (208)839-2135 <a href="mailto:seanmsantolin@fs.fed.us">seanmsantolin@fs.fed.us</a>
<b>Legal Location</b> <i>Township(s), Range(s), and Section(s) of project.</i>	T 26N, R3E, Section 24 NW ¼ Boise Meridian
<b>District Ranger / Line Officer's Name</b> <i>Person(s) responsible for signing the decision document</i>	Jeff Shinn
<b>Is the project associated with meeting a Forest target?</b>	Yes
<b>Which CE Category does this project fit?</b> <i>Provide citation: 36 CFR 220.6(e)(x)</i> <i>See below regarding 220.6(d) projects.</i>	36 CFR 220.6 (e) 1
<b>A Project Record or written Decision are <u>not required</u> for projects using 36 CFR 220.6 (d) categories.</b>  <i>If a <u>36 CFR 220.6 (d)</u> project, does the Decision Maker want it to go through the Small NEPA process?</i> Yes      No  <i><u>If no</u>, this form <b>does not</b> need to be filled out nor submitted to the Small NEPA planner.</i>  <i><u>If yes</u>, provide the category below, complete the remainder of this form and have Decision Maker submit it to the Small NEPA planner.</i>  <b>CE Category: 36 CFR 220.6 (d)(<u>  </u>)</b>	

**At what level does the Decision Maker want the project scoped?**

Internal\_X\_\_ External\*\_\_

*Internal scoping will be through the Small NEPA IDT, unless otherwise specified. Scoping would be documented in the Extraordinary Circumstances Checklist.*

*External scoping will be with the public via a scoping letter, a legal notice, and the scoping letter posted on the NPCWNF website. Postcards with a link to the website/scoping letter will be used for larger mailings. The Project will only be scoped to the Tribe(s) et al (see \* below), unless otherwise specified.*

*\*For external scoping, please to complete block below. Note: please enter "NA" if left empty on purpose*

**Provide a list of the individuals, groups, agencies, etc.\* , with their mailing address and/or email address, who will be included for external Scoping. DO NOT provide only a name.**

N/A

*\* The Nez Perce and Coeur d'Alene Tribes will routinely be scoped. The following will also be included on all SN scoping/ mailing lists: Friends of the Clearwater, Idaho Conservation League, Thomas E. Peterson and Bill Mulligan.*

**What Level of Analysis (below) does the Decision Maker want for the Project?**

  X   **Low level:** If the project's level of public scrutiny is projected to be relatively low or unknown, the line officer chooses who we would contact for scoping (limited). In this case specialists would only do the checklist for each project. Documentation for low level analysis projects would be a completed checklist filled out by the specialists, including the name of the specialist who performed the analysis, the project name, and date it was completed. No other written documentation would be generated.

       **Moderate level:** If the project's level of public scrutiny is projected to be relatively moderate to high, then the line officer chooses who we would contact for scoping (a little broader). In this case, specialists would complete the checklist with the only write up being for items that are present and the rationale for the effects call. No write up would be given for items in the checklist that are not present. If the determination is no effect (which generally speaking, most CE's should have zero to very little adverse effects), then document why that determination was made in one paragraph or less. If the determination is an adverse effect, then why that determination was made would be written in less three paragraphs.

**List the Management Area(s) in which your project is located.**

12D

Validated under the Little Slate Project 3/23/2011

**What are the desired conditions (*relevant to your project*) for the Management Area(s) listed above?**

Manage for timber production and other multiple uses on a sustained yield basis.

70% Fishery/Water Quality Objective

*Desired conditions are described in Chapters 2 & 3 of the Nez Perce and Clearwater Forest Plans.*

**Is the project in an Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA)?** Yes\* No X

If yes, which one?

*\* If yes, fill in the 'Project in Roadless Area' table below, **AND** complete a Briefing Paper - note map requirements. Provide the completed Briefing Paper to the Environmental Coordinator and Brian Riggers prior to scoping.*

**Is the project in a congressionally designated area, ex. Wilderness Area, Wild & Scenic River Corridor, Research Natural Area, Historic Trail, etc.?** Yes\* No X

If yes, which one(s)?

*\* If yes, contact Carol Hennessey, [cahennessey@fs.fed.us](mailto:cahennessey@fs.fed.us), 935-4270, BEFORE submitting this proposal, to discuss how the project may affect the designated area.*

**Are there Floodplains or Wetlands in the project area?** Yes No X

**Are there Municipal Watersheds in the project area?** Yes No X

If yes, which one?

**Is the project located in an RHCA?** Yes X No

**Describe the existing condition of the project area.**

The project area is a ford of Boulder Creek by Forest System, Idaho Centennial trail #88. The historic trail stretches from Adams Ranger Station to the Wind River pack bridge on the Salmon River. The entirety of the trail is motorized and receives heavy OHV use from June to November.

There are two old native bridge abutments when this was the main route of travel between Grangeville and the Salmon River. There is now currently a basic ford, 25 feet in length where large boulders have been moved in order to allow passage of OHVs. There are currently still rocks in the middle of the ford that make passage hazardous to both stock and OHVs. High water crossing are quite dangerous with shifting gravel and rocks; failing to sufficiently address resource protection and forest user safety. The western approach has no hardened material allowing sediment and gravel to be deposited into Boulder Creek.

**What is the Purpose and Need for the proposed action\*?**

The existing ford fails to adequately provide for forest user safety and resource protection. Deep and swift water with a rocky stream bed creates a dangerous ford, even for forest stock user. The western approach has no hardened surface which results in resource damage. The eastern approach, with a 20% grade has some concrete pavers but are often under water in the spring resulting in soil and sediment being deposited in the stream. Reconstructing a bridge over Boulder Creek at the original bridge site will mitigate user safety concerns and insure protection of forest resources.

*\* The purpose and need describes: Why is the action being proposed at this location at this time (what is the problem, the need for the action?)? And what is the desired goal/outcome (the purpose) of the action?*

**Describe the Proposed Action.**

What is provided will be used in the Scoping Letter (*external only*), by the resource specialists for their effects analyses, and in the Decision document.

The Salmon River Ranger District proposes replacing Idaho Centennial trail #88's ford of Boulder Creek with a bridge and hardened approaches. The location is one half mile west of the 221 on the 88 trail, immediately downstream from the current fords location. The site will be accessed with OHV's and trailers. The overall length will be 34 feet. The bridge will be constructed out of wood stringers and deck, with pressure treated material. Gabian baskets filled with rock gathered on site would be used for the abutments. The bridge would be constructed using the Regionally approved Forest Service Standard Plans for trail bridges. The western abutment will require a 2 foot rise in elevation. The eastern abutment will have a 3' long by 2' high retaining wall.

The bridge would be constructed in 2019 between August 1<sup>st</sup> and October 15<sup>th</sup>, depending on the availability of funding. The work will take 2 weeks and be done by a Forest Service Force Account trail crew. A mix of power tools and hand tools will be used including grip hoist, generators and chain saws. 5 trees in the 8" DBH range and 1 in the 25" DBH will need to be felled. The district Trails Specialist will work with Fisheries and Hydrology Staff to coordinate the proper placement of these trees.

The proposed bridge with hardened approaches will reduce the turbidity and physical disturbance caused by OHVs and other forest users. The new bridge will also provide a safer and more enjoyable recreational experience for forest users.

*Again, please provide a narrative description of the Proposed Action.*

**List the Design Criteria / Mitigation Measures \* to be included with the Proposed Action.**

The proposed bridge would be constructed using the Regionally approved Forest Service Standard Plans for trail bridges. Any instream work will conform to fisheries window for aquatic species.

*\* Additional Design Criteria/Measures can be listed under "Additional Information" on the last page of this form*

**Small NEPA IDT/resource specialists are listed below. Contact them if you have any questions regarding their resource for your project.**

Botany – Mike Hays, [mhays01@fs.fed.us](mailto:mhays01@fs.fed.us); 983-4028

Fisheries – Derrick Bawdon, [dbawdon@fs.fed.us](mailto:dbawdon@fs.fed.us);

Heritage – Steve Lucas, [slucas@fs.fed.us](mailto:slucas@fs.fed.us); 983-4040

Hydrology – Cynthia Valle, [cvalle@fs.fed.us](mailto:cvalle@fs.fed.us); 963-4203

Minerals – Marty Jones, [martinjones@fs.fed.us](mailto:martinjones@fs.fed.us); 983-5158

Recreation – Carol Hennessey, [cahennessey@fs.fed.us](mailto:cahennessey@fs.fed.us); 935-4270

Soils –

Wild and Scenic River – Chris Noyes, [chnoyes@fs.fed.us](mailto:chnoyes@fs.fed.us); 935-4251

Wildlife – Jim Lutes, [jamesrlutes@fs.fed.us](mailto:jamesrlutes@fs.fed.us); 963-4202

## PROJECT MAPS

Please send – separate from this form and per the instructions outlined below – a GIS-generated map or maps of the project area (pdf format only) with the project submission email.

- Make sure that the map layers can be turned on / off / are editable.
- Make sure the map(s) fits on an 8.5 x 11 sheet of paper.

Provide at least one map, preferably “portrait” orientation, with the project area / features as:

- a Point, e.g. culvert, bridge, etc.,
- a Line, e.g. fence, road, creek, etc., and/or
- a Polygon, e.g. stand boundaries, treatment areas, etc.
  - Do not use a point if treating an area, use a polygon.
  - Points/lines/polygons need to be distinct and easily found on the map.
  - The project area / site needs to be centered on the map, especially if only one area/feature.

Please use the Forest Visitor Map as your map’s base layer.

- Do not add contour lines to the FV map unless needed for clarifying the proposed action. Contour lines can make the map difficult to read.
  - If contour lines are needed, make sure they are distinguishable from other linear features such as roads, trails, streams, etc.
- A topo map can be substituted for the FV map. If using a topo map but the contour lines are not important the topo lines should be light gray or opaque.
- Regardless of base map, make sure there are identifiable elements, e.g. towns, roads, streams, etc. on the map to help locate the project area on the landscape and that the elements are clearly labeled.

The preferred map scale (typically 1:24K) is whatever scale best presents the project area’s location and proposed activities:

- If the 1:24K scale is too small (i.e. the project feature(s) – point/line/polygon – would be hard to find or would be indistinguishable on just one map), use a larger scale to show the overall project area (coarse scale map) and smaller scaled maps to show the project features (fine scale map).
- If the 1:24K scale is too big (i.e. the project feature is a tiny point or thin line lost/hard to find on the larger landscape), use a smaller scale to highlight the feature while ensuring there are elements on the map to identify the project’s location.
- If you need to make additional maps, please make as few as possible.

At a minimum, all maps should include (with the preferred but not set in stone location on the map):

- a Title (project name and district name only (please); centered at top)
- a Legend (features clearly labeled; lower right corner)
- a Scale (in half mile, e.g. 0\_\_0.25\_\_0.5 miles, or full miles, e.g. 0\_\_0.25\_\_0.5\_\_1.0 miles; lower left corner)
- a North Arrow (upper right corner)
  - Display all of the above in boxes with black outlines and a white backgrounds (not gray or yellow)
  - Do not ‘Halo’ the text or numbers or anything else on the map. Please.
  - The Scale needs to be large enough to read the numbers.

Finally, please include the mapmakers name and the date it was created on the map.

**The Map(s) you provide will be used for Scoping the Public and the Tribes and in the Decision document. Please make sure they show – clearly, effectively, and professionally – what activity or activities are being proposed and where they are located on the Nez Perce - Clearwater National Forests.**

## SHAPEFILES

The resource specialists require the shapefile(s) of the project's proposed activities before they will conduct their analyses. Providing the shapefile does not substitute for providing a pdf map.

The Project Proponent needs to send the shapefile, or a location where the shapefile can be found, to the Small NEPA Planner (currently: jjchynoweth@fs.fed.us) by the time or shortly after the District Ranger submits this form.

- Shapefiles need to include the Project Name and have the Feature (culvert, bridge, etc.) labeled.
- Shapefiles need to include the following extensions – .dbf, .prj, .sbn, .shp, .shx, and .xml.

**PROPONENT:** When submitting the shapefile(s) you must include in the email how the location(s) of the project feature(s), i.e. line, point, and/or polygon, were determined (see below):

- Field-collected GPS data;
- From existing corporate GIS data (provide name of GIS layer);
- Created (digitized) from an aerial photo;
- Created (digitized) from the existing corporate GIS data;
- Created (digitized) from the NPCLW Visitor Map;
- Other (describe).

## Projects in Roadless Area

<p><b>What is the Inventoried Roadless Area name?</b></p> <p><i>O:\NFS\NezPerceClearwater\Project\MultiBasin\Planning\Small_NEPA_Cat_Ex\Reference Material\Roadless Rule Info</i></p>	<p><b><u>Forest Plan IRA Name (if different):</u></b></p>
<p><b>Identify the Idaho Roadless Management Classification:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Wild Land Recreation</i></li> <li>• <i>Special Areas of Historic or Tribal Significance</i></li> <li>• <i>Primitive</i></li> <li>• <i>Backcountry Restoration</i></li> <li>• <i>General Forest, Rangeland and Grassland</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Classification(s):</b></p>
<p><b>Does the project involve constructing or reconstructing roads?</b> Yes* No X</p> <p>* If yes, see <a href="http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2">http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2</a> then navigate to Subpart C 294.23</p>	
<p><b>Does the project involve cutting trees?</b> Yes* X No</p> <p>* If yes, see <a href="http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2">http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2</a> then navigate to Subpart C 294.24</p>	
<p><b>Does the project involve removing minerals, including common variety minerals?</b> Yes* No X</p> <p>* If yes, see <a href="http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2">http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2</a> then navigate to Subpart C 294.25</p>	

Additional Information:

See attached photos:

**DSCN0328:** Shows the current ford site facing east.

**InkedDSCN0330 LI:** Shows the proposed bridge site facing west. The orange indicates the bridge with the black X's indicating the location of the 88 trail.

**InkedDSCN0332 LI:** Shows the proposed bridge site facing the north with the current ford in in the foreground. The orange indicates the bridge with the black X's idicating the trails present location